Brother to Brother Reaches Out

Gay African-American Men's Group Forms

by Andre Hampton
Contributing Writer

The start of the new year brings another new social group to Monterey County. Brother to Brother, a social group for African-American gay men, will hold its first meeting in February or March, according to the two local organizers.

The group will meet once a month at a location still to be determined, according to co-founder Damon Bell.

What's In Store

A second member of the nascent group characterized the reasons behind the group as such: "In the general gay community, it's difficult because there's nobody that looks like you." He went on to say that despite the fact that African American males theoretically make up a significant portion of the gay community, he knows of only a handful of others like himself.

He hopes that Brother to Brother will grow into a well-supported organization that allows for socializing, networking, and other activities. "We're waiting for the members to say what their needs are, what their wants are." Men from anywhere within the region are invited to join. "There aren't any regional restrictions."

Similar organizations already exist in the Bay Area, and the Monterey group will look to them for guidance. One of the organizers stated very clearly that this will not be a chapter of Black and White Men Together, a national organization which caters to bi-racial couples.

Brother to Brother hopes to have its first meeting in February or March. Meetings will be announced through the local media, word of mouth, and Monterey’s Gay Website (see page 2 for the URL).

How to Get Involved

For more information on Brother to Brother, contact Damon Bell at (408) 582-5865.

Local Girl Makes Good
A Candid Interview with Santa Cruz Author Deborah Abbott
Page 6
Aloha, Marriage

I could feel the hairs on my neck stand up when I first heard the news. Marriage, at least in Hawaii, is on its way to becoming a reality. One of the roadblocks on the road to equal rights for lesbians and gays is being torn down. Why aren’t we dancing a hula in the streets?

Growing Up or Selling Out?

Now that we can legally marry, I foresee two things happening: those who are interested or capable of forming monogamous relationships will begin fighting for passage of a similar law in California; those who have resigned themselves to being forever single won’t, despite the fact that acceptance of gay marriage is an important stepping stone towards broader civil rights protection.

If a California version of the marriage law was passed, we will still have the right to take advantage of it. You can form a relationship with a lover today with many or as few of the restrictions that are common in modern marriage. Legalizing same-sex marriage does have the effect of leveling the playing field within a relationship by codifying the rule book. Relationship boundaries are clearly defined so there is little chance for convenient misinterpretations.

While I tacitly accept the rationale behind open relationships, I have always leaned towards describing these unions in traditional terms, i.e., if one or both partners sleeps around, you’re roommates, not lovers. In a society hostile to Ebonics and other attempts to be culturally sensitive, I wonder how some members of our community can so nonchalantly re-invent the concept of “marriage” or “commitment” to suit their own needs.

An example: a friend of mine enjoys talking to his boyfriend about their pending commitment ceremony, only to later ask his boyfriend if their relationship could include three-ways. I suggested that my friend respond by agreeing to three-ways, but only if an announcement of this clause were woven into their commitment vows.

A Place of Our Own

The perennial debate over whether Monterey ready to support a gay community center has once again become a hot topic. We’ve seen planning committees come and go and accomplish little. If my e-mail contacts are any indication, there is a real need for a youth center of some kind. Ditto a group for those who don’t socialize at the bars. Until the day we cut the ribbon on a community center, I suggest everyone agree to support a local coffeehouse and make it ours at least one night a week. Everyone wins.

Moving Reprieve

I was recently hired by a company here in Monterey, so the long-standing rumor that I will be moving (which I helped spread) can be forgotten. I’m staying put at least for the next year, and maybe be found most nights beside the fireplace at the After Dark.

No More Risky Business

The Paper now has its City of Monterey business license. It was an interesting process, and I owe a debt of gratitude to my landlord Carl Outen and Ginger at the Monterey Planning Dept. Our license number (#00003796) will now be listed in every issue. - WK

Letters to the Editor

On the Other Hand

by David Butterfield

A n opinion on Same-Sex Marriage. The marriage benefit is a “special right.” Some time ago, organized government decided that the granting of special benefits for married people is in the interest of the State.

In American practice it has been the strategy to attack special privilege by broadening the class until the specialness is shared by everyone. For example, the vote was originally for white male landowners and was extended to include women and black folk - as well as people who were not holders of property.

On the issue of marriage, should we not be against the whole system of privilege that the protected special right to marry and reap economic benefits and start from a truly playing field? At least for gay men, the vast majority of us are not coupled, The question can be asked if our economic disadvantage is worth the support of a special class of citizens.

The economic issues are not related to paired-ness, they are hedges against major flaws in the economic system. What we need is universal guaranteed health care, the elimination of the home owner’s preference in taxes on homes. Such a change would bring down the cost of housing overnight.

If marriage is really about relationship, I suggest that marriage brings with it factors which mitigate against true and happy relationships. The evil statistic of domestic violence in our community is a scandal. One can speculate that without the “Bonding Mania” each person would be free to develop relationships without the negative effects of marriage.

It is a challenge for those of us that are single to re-think this issue and not be for it just because Pat Robertson is against it. Maybe on reflection, Robertson might be against marriage all together [Tammy Fay would surely be]!

There needs to be new thinking and exchange of ideas on this idea. The special rights that married people get may not be in the best interest of modern society. And the perpetuation of this medieval institution, which was invented to preserve the property rights of males, may not be in our own enlightened self interest. Besides there is so much to be done to restructure our society [like universal health care and enlightened property law] that such restructuring is a better path to walk, than bating the evil right with hot button issues about who sleeps with whom.

David Butterfield is a new Monterey County resident who used to live in New England.

Send your letters to the editor to “The Paper” Letters to the Editor, 787 Laine St. #5, Monterey, CA 93940.

Open Mind

Activities gay men say are acceptable when making love:

- Having sex in public places 65%
- Sex with two partners 79%
- Voyeurism 27%
- Leather sex 21%
- Sex with Up to Two Partners 44%
- Sex with Two Partners 55%
- Spanking 40%
- Non-penetrative sex 25%
- Penetration 77%
- Orgy 27%
- Affectionate kissing 40%
- Traveling 27%
- Alcohol 24%
- Music 27%
- Drugs 17%
- Money 10%
- Children 10%
- Food 17%
- Alcohol 24%
- Music 27%
- Drugs 17%

Gay South

Ages of mexican adult males described as "gay/homosexual":

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-30</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>41+</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Boys and Toys Magazine's Readers Poll

Gustavo Cabrera, for The Paper

Source: Details Magazine Poll.

Gustavo Cabrera, for The Paper

Go Ahead, Make My Day...Write An Article!
Local News

Seaside High Lesbians Under Fire
A pair of unnamed Seaside High students were the target of a right-wing attempt to censor their public displays of affection.

Conservative students submitted a petition to the school administration in an attempt to stop the two young women from making public their relationship with one another on school grounds.

The names of the two students have not been released by the school's principal, according to Kendall Klein, a reporter for the Carmel Pine Cone who is pursuing the story in hopes of giving the two women a chance to share their views in a public forum.

Sue Perris of the National Coalition Building Institute was called into mediate a conflict management session. Details to come.

New Gay Dance Bar to Open in S.C.
The Dakota Club, the long-rumored second gay bar in downtown Santa Cruz is scheduled to open its doors sometime in late March or April, according to the those working on the project.

The bar will feature a large dance-floor with a state-of-the-art sound system, an evening happy hour featuring jazz music, and a completely gay-friendly atmosphere. It will be located in the space formally occupied by the pawnshop near the new movie complex on Pacific Ave. in downtown Santa Cruz.

After Dark Backlot Reopens
The Backlot shows little signs of the fire that closed it down for over a month, other than a fresh coat of paint and new track lighting.

The early morning fire caused smoke and minor structural damage. According to co-owner Weldon Webb, a Monterey patrolman spotted the fire soon after flames became visible, which saved the structure from serious damage. Said Webb, "The firemen said if it had gone on a few more minutes, it would have burst into flames."
The cause of the fire hasn't been determined, but it assumed that it started along the back of the property, which butts up against a printing company parking lot often used by vagrants in search of a place to sleep.

Long Range Planning Committee Seeks Community Reps
If you want a say in how the Monterey County AIDS Project operates for the next three years, MCAP's Long Range Planning Committee wants to hear from you. Chair Wes Kashiwagi is actively seeking women and men interested in sharing their insight. Contact Wes at 655-3756 for meeting times.

Myth Thing
by Howard To
Contributing Writer

I like my partners to have a big _____, a little _____, a warm _____, and a soft ____. Learning how to fill in the blanks is an important part of understanding what you see in a full-length mirror compares to what everyone else sees when they look at you.

Special Event
The Man-to-Man program will offer a free and fun way for gay men who want to work to improve their body image (see ad page 4).

The two-hour special event is on January 29th, 7 p.m., at MCAP's Seaside office (780 Hamilton, just off of Fremont).

Never Too Big
One aspect of modern gay culture is a universal obsession with having the perfect hair, the perfect body, and the perfect genitals. While there's nothing wrong with having these things, for most people it just isn't a possibility. "It's not about what you other people think about you," said Justin Larson, Man-to-Man Coordinator, "it's about what you think about yourself."

Partners, masturbation, fantasies, and other aspects of a gay man's sex life (or lack thereof) will be the focus of the event. Exercises will provide an opportunity for attendees to talk about subjects that they might normally feel embarrassed or otherwise uncomfortable discussing.

No reservations are required to attend the event. If you need directions to the MCAP office in Seaside, call Justin Larson at 772-8202.

The Paper is looking for a few good writers. Call Wes at 655-3756 today.

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408.464.2168

Time to Design Pride

"Do Ask, Do Tell" Is '97 Pride Fest Theme

by Marsh Slav
Contributing Writer

Organizers of Monterey's 1997 Gay Pride Festival are hungry for community input. Festival organizers Scott Steinman and Wes Kashiwagi will be holding a meeting in late-February to discuss what needs to be done and who wants to do it.

Building on Last Year

After the success of last year's festival, Steinman and Kashiwagi were deluged with offers from local lesbians and gays to assist with this year's events.

"We're calling in all of our favors," said Kashiwagi, who was in charge of the march on Lighthouse Ave. "It was a lot of fun last year, and we hope others will join us in '97. I should be a great party."

Attendance at the 1996 festival is estimated at 250 for the march and 800 at the festival and post-festival parties. Costs were covered by selling drinks donated by the After Dark, booth rentals, cash donations, small fundraisers, and last minute pick-up truck loans. "I'm not going to charge the whole event to my VISA like last year," said Kashiwagi, laughing.

March Meetings

The two-year old Monterey Pride Association (MPA) will meet in March to discuss this year's budget and the details of this year's festival. Members voted and approved this year's theme, "Do Ask, Do Tell"—a reference to both the significant gay presence in the military and the continued efforts of community organizers to make our community more visible.

What's Needed

The MPA needs volunteers to assume responsibility for fundraising; applying for city permits, marketing, and rounding up entertainment for the festival.

GALAAD LINES

Navy Settings Anti-Lebanese Witch Hunt Suit

In the first successful suit to challenge violations of the current "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy's prohibition on military witch hunts of lesbian and gay servicemembers, the Department of Justice and the Navy settled a lawsuit brought by former Seaman Amy L. Barnes on Dec. 12.

Barnes sued the Navy earlier this year for wrongful discharge and for violating her constitutional rights.

The Navy agreed to pay Barnes an amount roughly equivalent to the G.I. Bill educational benefits to which she would have been entitled had she been allowed to complete her enlistment term.

The Navy also issued her a new discharge form removing all references to "homosexual conduct." Barnes had been discharged following a witch hunt of women accused as lesbian on the USS Simon Lake, a nuclear submarine, in the fall of 1995.

"This is a victory not just for Amy Barnes, but for all servicemembers jeopardized by the military's anti-gay policy and the witch hunts that can result from it," said Kirk Childress, Staff Attorney of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN).

Bay Area Boy Scouts Set "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy

In what many lesbian and gay groups speculate is an attempt to curry favor with the United Way, the San Francisco Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts have quietly adopted a "don't ask, don't tell" policy towards gay scouts and troop leaders.

While gay members and leaders have been expelled simply because of their sexual orientation nationally; the Bay Area Council will only call for expulsion if a person "engages in public homosexual conduct or advocacy."

In 1992, the United Way cut nearly $500,000 in annual funding to seven Bay Area councils because of the Scouts' anti-gay policy.

"It looks good, but it's a double message," said San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano. "What do they mean by 'as long as you don't advocate?' What do they mean by 'public homosexual conduct?' It's back to the Anita Bryant days of staying in the closet."

GLAAD contact: Don Romesburg
(415) 861-2244
romesburg@glaad.org
http://www.glaad.org

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MCAP Seaside Office, 780 Hamilton

For more information, contact Man-to-Man at 772-8202.

This program is funded in part by a contract with the Monterey County Health Department and the Monterey County AIDS Project.

First Lesbians, Then Drag Queens. Who Will Straight People Find Chic Next?
IMANI Plans Outreach

by George Koorias
Contributing Writer

Monterey’s first African-American HIV/AIDS outreach program, IMANI, held its first planning session January 7th in New Monterey.

IMANI has been active over the past several years, but has gone largely unnoticed. Kevin Logan, boardmember of John XXIII AIDS Ministry, is leading the effort to renew community support for the program.

“I don’t want to say that current efforts are inadequate, but whatever work is being done doesn’t appear to be effective,” said Logan at the planning meeting. “I don’t think service providers have developed the strategies to break into the African-American community.”

Racism or Ineptitude?

Joy Rubey and Tom Melville, executive directors of the Monterey County AIDS Project (MCAP) and John XXIII respectively, both attended the meeting and were in agreement with Logan’s analysis. Neither agency has made significant inroads into the local African-American community despite county statistics which show that African-Americans account for a disproportionately high number of reported local AIDS cases.

The answer to solving the lack of interest in HIV education may lie in a conservative stronghold of the local African-American community.

Over the next three months, the IMANI planning committee hopes to answer these questions: Is this program even needed; what is being done or has been done in the past; what are the hurdles/pitfalls; and which of the two existing AIDS service organizations would be best suited to manage the program.

Preaching to the Choir?

Part of the problem may lie in the African-American community’s distrust of organizations. The U.S. government-funded Tuskegee syphilis studies, in which African-American men were allowed to die by researchers despite the availability of a cure, is often cited as a modern example of why this exists.

Ironically, the answer to solving the lack of interest in HIV prevention and education may lie in a conservative stronghold of the African-American community. IMANI is considering recruiting local ministers and church groups to help end the stigma surrounding the disease.

“We’re about 10 years behind the rest of the community when it comes to participation,” said Akin Miller, founder of IMANI. Miller has worked behind the scene for several years trying to gain access to the church and to motivate men and women within the African-American gay community.

How to Get Involved

African American women and men are especially encouraged to participate. You can leave a message for Kevin Logan at John XXIII, 655-1737.
Local Gal Makes Good
An Interview with Local Writer Deborah Abbott

The Paper recently spoke with local psychotherapist and author, Deborah Abbott who is coeditor of the recently published book From Wedded Wife to Lesbian Life: Stories of Transformation.

The Paper: So, is it true you're a Monterey native?
Deborah: Yes, indeed. I was born in Carmel, and grew up off of Josselyn Canyon Road in a little adobe house my father and mother and grandfather built. My folks still live there. My dad worked for the local phone company and my mom was a switchboard operator at the Lodge at Pebble Beach until they retired. I went to La Mesa School (I was one of the few non-Navy kids), Walter Colton Jr. High, and Monterey High. I played clarinet in the band, was on the Debate Team, the whole shebang. No one would have guessed...

The Paper: Guessed what?
Deborah: That I would turn out queer!

The Paper: Oh, do tell!
Deborah: Well, growing up, I always really loved my girlfriends. When my friends started dating boys, I was crushed.

Still, I didn't have a clue that my passion for my girlfriends was anything close to lesbianism as I understood it. When I was 17, I moved to Santa Cruz to attend the University. I became involved in feminist causes.

Throughout college I had been dating a very soft, very feemy guy and having a series of super-close friendships with women. I finished college, promptly married (another feemy guy), and had a couple of babies. Then, one day, I literally fell in bed with my best girlfriend. My tidy little heterosexual world fell apart. There was no escaping the sudden and powerful revelation that being with women as a lesbian was where I belonged.

The Paper: And what happened to your hubby and kids?
Deborah: If I was stunned by the awareness of my lesbianism, my husband was devastated. But we both eventually recovered and amically divorced and worked out a coparenting plan for our sons that we maintained for many years. All things considered, I feel we did a good job of helping our sons grow up in a unique kind of family. One of my boys is now a 6 foot 3 inch man; the other just turned 16. They're great kids.

The Paper: And what about you?
Deborah: Discovering my lesbianism was the best thing that ever happened to me! I wasn't suited to being anyone's wife. After coming out, I flourished. I parented my boys half of each week, then had the rest of the time to grow me up. I began exploring lesbian life and had a few relationships with wonderful women who taught me lots about myself and the world.

Despite having had polio at the age of two, I discovered my jock-self and became a white water raft and kayak guide. I spent every available weekend rowing people down rivers. I resumed writing, which I had a talent and passion for from an early age. I began getting poems and stories published. I worked at a series of non-profit organizations in Santa Cruz until I realized I'd never make enough money to comfortably support myself and my two sons.

So, I rallied my resources and mustered my courage and stepped beyond my working class roots to go off to graduate school to become a psychotherapist. And, I'm proud to say, I accomplished my goal. I've been a licensed therapist in private practice for the past five years.

The Paper: I hear you've just gotten a book published.
Deborah: Yes. It's an anthology of poems and personal narratives by formerly married lesbians called From Wedded Wife to Lesbian Life: Stories of Transformation. (The Crossing Press). Back in 1993, my coeditor, Ellen Farmer, and I realized that despite the plethora of books written by women and lesbians, there was virtual silence on the topic of lesbians who had been married to men. Married and once married lesbians were often living doubly closeted lives--not disclosing their lesbianism in the straight environments they inhabited, nor their once-married status in lesbian circles.

So, Ellen and I gathered the broadest range of life stories we could, along with before-and-after photos, and ended up with a terrific collection that has successfully broken that silence. From Wedded Wife to Lesbian Life has been doing very well. I hear from lots of wives who buy the book and hide it under the conjugal bed while they reconsider their marital status and sexual orientation. As a result of the book, I lead two support groups for married/once married lesbians. Several women from Monterey are involved in my groups. I think the book and groups make a real difference for women attempting to negotiate this complex transition.

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The Paper: Any other projects up your sleeves?
Deborah: For now, no. I'm busy with my psychotherapy practice and with teaching at JFK University. I'm still involved in parenting, though I'm beginning to see a light at the end of that tunnel, which is nice.

I'm enjoying the fruits of all the labor of the book: traveling around the country giving readings and interviews. I have a wonderful partner, Rebecca, with whom I love spending my free time. And then, of course, there are incredible beaches and forests and roads in Monterey Bay that I've yet to explore...

Readers interested in contacting Deborah Abbott may do so at (408) 464-2168 or via e-mail at dehabbot@ixx.com Her book From Wedded Wife to Lesbian Life (The Crossing Press) is available at Bay Books in Monterey and other local book stores or write them at P.O. Box 1048, Freedom, CA 95019, 800/777-1048.

Is Objectification Such a Bad Thing?
Berlin Boogies

by Dan Presser
Contributing Writer

What's the newest European gay and lesbian hot spot that's as old as the hills? Here's a clue. It's considered by many to have been the birthplace of the gay and lesbian rights movement as we know it today.

Hirschfeld Exhition
In 1919, a famous sexologist founded the Institute for Sexual Science. This Institute blossomed into a site for gay and lesbian freedom.

The papa of this movement was Professor Magnus Hirschfeld and the city is Berlin, a city which is now becoming a lesbian mecca.

Berlin has opened a museum in the honor of Dr. Hirschfeld called Schwules Museum on Mehringdamm Street. It's open 2-6 pm daily, except for Mondays and Tuesdays. The museum specializes on every aspect of gay history throughout the world.

In 1897 Dr. Hirschfeld circulated a petition to repeal Germany's anti-sodomy laws. In commemoration of that historic event the Schwules Museum will have a special show called "One Hundred Years of Gay Movement." It is scheduled to run from May 14 to August of 1997. Hirschfeld and his haunts are memorialized in the well known musical Cabaret.

Gay City Center
Nollendorf Platz was once the center of gay life in Berlin during the twenties and thirties. Despite having been blasted away by the Allies, it has returned. Now it's bigger and better than ever. Famous in Cabaret is Sally Bowles' boarding house. You can see the real thing at #17 just around the corner from the subway station.

Man-O-Meter at Moltkestrasse 5 is the place to go to find out what's happening in Berlin. This should be a guy's first stop to get the lay of the land.

Berlin's oldest, continuously run gay bars is the Besenhammer (Broom Closet). You can find this interesting pub at Alexanderplatz in East Berlin. The Altbildervier Bierstube (Old Berlin Beer Hall) is another favorite with the locals. The Altbildervier and other gay spots don't come alive until after the bewitching hour. Don't take out, get your rest during the day so you can play at night.

Germans in Leather
Leather is big in Berlin. Leather wear designers and workers flock to Berlin to check out the scene. The highlight for leather enthusiasts is the Leather Meeting which takes place during the Easter holidays.

One of the most popular leather bars is Knast (Jail). Knast is better than a B ride at Disneyland. You get your drink and so much more at the Knast—chains, helmets, riot sticks.

Two beautiful places for women only are the Café Seidenladen at Dierksenstrasse 97 and the Golden Girls located on Zeitstraβe 8. Café Seidenladen focuses on cultural events. It's busy at lunch and in the evenings there are readings and discussions. Golden Girls is a ladies' upscale restaurant. At the other end of the scale is the down to earth Whistle Stop Café.

Two for One Airfare
Getting to Berlin is better that ever. Now you can spend your money on fun rather than flying there because Lufthansa has a special partner's fly free program. That's right, two can fly from San Francisco to Berlin for the price of one! There are a plethora of rules, so here goes. This will offer is good on Lufthansa flights to Berlin via Munich on flights LH491/492 January 13 through March 20, 1997 (last travel date). Offer is valid for round-trip Economy Class travel for $1407 midweek and $1138 weekend, plus taxes. Lufthansa flights LH491/492 operate on Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays. There are more rules! Be sure to check with your travel agent for all the info.


Instant information about this impressive city can be found on the Internet at the URL (Internet address) of http://www.berlin.de. For more information on Berlin and getting there, call your local travel agency or L'Arc en Ciel Voyages at 1-800-965 LARC.

You can reach the well-traveled Dan Presser at Four Winds Travel, 408/822-0800.

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'T97 Damron Expands

from Press Release

Since 1964, gay men have trusted the Damron Address Book, the original gay travel guide, to provide them with comprehensive, up-to-date travel information. With the release of the 1997 Damron Address Book, the Damron Company once again raises its own standards of excellence.

The 33rd edition contains almost 10,000 listings of gay-owned and gay-friendly accommodations, bars, restaurants, cafes, gyms, bookstores, retail shops, travel agents, publications, men's clubs, erotica shops and Damron's (infamous) cruising areas throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

At the heart of "the Guide" (as it's affectionately known to its almost 1 million readers) are Damron's signature "codes" that help readers get the essential information about a business at a glance. Whether you're looking for leather in Los Angeles, a piano bar in Providence, or a drag show in Des Moines, you'll find it in the Damron.

But while the Damron Address Book may be the "little black book of gay travel," it doesn't stop there. Damron recognizes gay men's diversity, so no matter what your size, shape or style, the Damron Address Book lists an info line or social group for you.

In response to reader requests, Damron is once again including listings for a wide range of spiritual groups, from Dignity to the Radical Faeries. With the 1997 edition, readers will find a new "TG" code to designate businesses that welcome transgendered people.

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The Better to See You With...

Santa Visits
The Paper

The Paper was a good, little publication this year it seems. Santa (aka James Mearns) replaced our photographer’s rapidly disintegrating flash unit, and provided a six-pack of 35mm film. The entire staff of The Paper would like to thank Mr. Mearns for his generosity.

Steve Kelso '97 Benefit Calendar Available

Spend 12 glorious months with Steve Kelso for only $15.00 ($5 goes to a AIDS Charity of your choice).

It’s not too late to order Steve Kelso’s 1997 Calendar, proceeds from which are being donated to AIDS organizations around the country. Kelso is busy traveling the country, signing his calendar at local gay bars such as Greg’s Ball Room in San Jose. To order a catalog, Eagle Studios, P.O. Box 951, Lakewood, NJ, 08701-9998.

Steve Kelso can be reached at the following address: KelsoCOLT@aol.com or via The Hairway to Steven website: http://www.daboy.com/filter.html

Steve Kelso: the nicest guy in porn today
January

19th, Sunday
Mad Hatter's Ball
The 3M Foundation throws a bash to benefit Equinox, At the Blue Lagoon on Pacific in Santa Cruz. 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. $5 door, $3 with a hat.

22nd, Wednesday
“It’s Elementary” Film Showing
The National Coalition Building Institute presents a benefit showing of Bay Area filmmaker Helen Cohen’s provocative film on contemporary gay issues. $10 suggested donation goes toward sending local representatives to the 3-day NCBI G/L/B/T retreat in Baltimore. At the Oldmenyer Center in Seaside. 7-9:30 p.m. Filmmaker Cohen will be on hand to answer questions after the film. Call Bruce Carbon for info 899-2263.

25th, Saturday
Dance & Drag at Franco’s
The party continues at Castroville’s only gay dance club. Great drag show at midnight, Dance to one of the best DJs in the region before and after. At Franco’s, Norma Jean, 10639 Merritt St. in Castroville (near the city arch, next door to the Wells Fargo Bank).

26th, Sunday
Super Bowl Party at Title IX
A big TV, a beer, and thou. Join the fun at Monterey’s only women’s sports bar. At Title IX, 281 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 375-4888.

30th, Thursday
“The Fire Ignites”
DJ David Harmon (Universe) ignites the flames. $3 cover. At the After Dark, 214 Lighthouse Ave. in Monterey, 375-7828.

31st, Friday
Fan the Flames with DJ Deno & Guest
Dance the night away with a hundred or so of your closest friends. Fire sale and drink specials. At the After Dark, 214 Lighthouse Ave. in Monterey, 375-7828.

February

5th, Wednesday
Martini Night at the After Dark
Backlot Bob shakes up the finest martini in Monterey from 4:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. In the Backlot of the After Dark, 214 Lighthouse Ave. in Monterey, 373-7828. Enter through the side gate.

8th, Friday
Bear Club Meeting
At 7 p.m. in Monterey. A great group that welcomes everyone. Very friendly. Call Tex for details and location, 466-1485, or e-mail bracon@msbay.net.

9th, Sunday
Interfaith Service and Candlelight Vigil
At St. Paul’s Episcopal church, 10717 Pajaro, Salinas, 7-9 p.m. Contact Katherine or Father Rick at 655-1737. Part of AIDS Awareness Week.

11th, Tuesday
Community Action Awards
For details call Joy Roby at the Monterey County AIDS Project, 394-4747.

12th, Wednesday
Peninsula Professionals Meeting
For details call Donn or Del at the Peninsula Professionals Network at 659-2466. Part of AIDS Awareness Week.

13th, Thursday
Nati’ Black Gay & Lesbian Conference
In Long Beach. February 13-17. Confirmed speakers include Jocelyn Elders, MD, Cornell West, June Jordan, and others. (213) 964-7820 for information.

FYI Presentation “What’s New in HIV?”
At the Monterey County AIDS Project, 780 Hamilton in Seaside. 6-8 p.m. Contact Kirsten at 772-9204. Part of AIDS Awareness Week.

14th, Friday
Gay Teen Alliance
A safe, confidential group for gay, bisexual and questioning teens. Contact Justin Larson at 772-8202.

After Dark Valentine’s Day Party
The After Dark holds its annual dance for those shopping for love. Or just looking. At the After Dark, 214 Lighthouse Ave. in Monterey, 373-7828.

Title IX is where love resides. Join them for a fun evening of Valentines and pool. Cool. At Title IX, 281 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 375-4888.

15th, Saturday
Noche De Fantasia Party
At Franco’s, Norma Jean, 10639 Merritt St. in Castroville. Contact Victor at 772-8202. Part of AIDS Awareness Week.

Grand Cypress Empire Red & White Ball
The Empire takes over this Valentine’s Day tradition, Food, fun, and a Sweetheart Contest. At the American Legion Hall in Carmel, on Dolores near the corner of 8th (check your map before going, it gets very dark at night).

16th, Sunday
70's Theme Party
At the After Dark, 214 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 8 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. Tickets $5 in advance, $5 at the door. Tickets available at the After Dark and the Monterey County AIDS Project. Contact the After Dark at 373-7828. Held in commemoration of AIDS Awareness Week.

Interfaith Service and Candlelight Vigil
At St. Timotht Lutheran Church, 52 Soledad, Monterey, 7-9 p.m. Contact Katherine or Father Rick at John XXIII 655-1737. Part of AIDS Awareness Week.

March

9th, Sunday
Call for Date - Bear Club Meeting
At 7 p.m. in Monterey. A great group that welcomes everyone. Very friendly. Call Tex for details and location, 466-1482, or e-mail bracon@msbay.net.

11th, Tuesday
Peninsula Professionals Meeting
For details call Donn or Del at the Peninsula Professionals Network at 659-2466.

24th, Monday
MCAP Academy Awards
Annual benefit for the Monterey County AIDS Project. Food and wine from the best local restaurants, drawings, and Oscar on projection TV’s throughout. $45 per person, $75 per couple. If you don’t receive an invitation by late February, call Bill Lutz at 394-4747.

GaySpeak
A sampling of gay and gay-related local slang.

County
adj. excellent. Used interchangeably with “fierce” among Black gays, e.g. “Girlfriend’s new hood was county.”

DeGenerate
n. to come out of the closet without actually saying the words. From the comedian Ellen DeGeneres.

Sausage Party
n. what straight boys are calling the After Dark nightclub

Twat Swat
n. what straight boys are calling the Title IX bar.

body glade
n. a much needed shower or bath for someone who smells

B.O.Q.
n. Big Ol’ Queen. So gay he just can’t help it.

farsees
n. a man or woman who looks attractive from far away, but gets less so the closer you get

link
n. big penis, as in “I got a big link.”

funk phenomenon
n. someone with a pervasive body odor

magic screen
n. a man with a big face or beard

liquor cabinet
n. a closeted lesbian

kindergarten coping
n. an older gay man paying for the services of a young gay man

The Paper thanks the contributors to this county selection. We kiss your magic screen.
When Beauty Fades

Talking about the generation gap between young & old Monterey gays/lesbians

by Kassi Ydris
Contributing Writer

EDITOR’S NOTE: The Paper does not necessarily support or agree with the views expressed in this or any other commentary appearing in this publication.

It is too easy to cite a generation gap as the reason why younger gay men and lesbian women do not interact much with their older counterparts in our community. This answer is simplistic, but there are differences. From speaking to some local men and women, I found that the generation gap is the main reason for lack of interaction between younger and older lesbians.

On the other hand, the opposite appears to be the case with younger men. From personal experience and interaction, I found that many young gay men are horrified of being seen with older men. Perhaps this is due to the fear the majority of young men have of aging.

Mirror, Mirror

Younger lesbian women are not so body/oriented to the extreme that young gay males appear to be. The ticket of the day for younger gay males appears to be the fun in living and enjoying a quick night of sex, whereas for lesbian women the emphasis is on building a lasting and nurturing relationship.

Of course, my observations can’t be generalized to the entire gay population. The findings and opinions aired in the interviews that follow represent a small, unscientific sampling of the gay and lesbian Monterey community.

The Interviews

I interviewed four lesbian women (three older, one younger) for this article. The women refused to have their pictures taken and did not want their real names used for this article. These four lesbian women, (whom we shall call, Blanche, Betty, Georgia, and Paula) gave the following answers as to the reason younger and older lesbians do not interact as much with one another.

All of the four women agreed that now that they are older and have a partner, they don’t come to bars as much to meet people. When they do come to the bar, it’s with close friends or with their partner to have a beer and relax.

"Blanche", 28, stated that the lack of interaction had more to do with them having, "Nothing in common with other lesbians, from their music, to their lifestyle. It's not like I don't want to hang out with them." I asked them if they went out of their way to avoid younger or older lesbians on purpose when entering a bar.

"Georgia", 37, answered that, "I would interact more if I was single, but since I am in a committed relationship, this is the reason why I don't." Betty", 35, added, "We are not as shallow."

What the Boys Said

I found that young gay men avoided older men on purpose, unless they were out to get a sugar daddy. Some young gay men enjoyed flatteringly older men just to get money for sex, clothes, etc.

Jason, a young gay male in his twenties had this to say: "It's a generational difference. Younger people know about the current scene and the older gay men don't keep up with young gay stuff. It's mainly due to lack of commonalities. Looks don't matter... anything over 30 is just Out Out! Yet I wouldn't feel threatened with an older gay couple, because for the most part, they aren't running after you. They've gone through so much that they've experienced and they can give more tips and wisdom about what to avoid in life."

Foster Farms?

One might surmise from theabove statement that older gay males are rapidly running after young boys trying to capture their lost youth, but this is not necessarily the case.

Older gay men can be a source of camaraderie, support, and wisdom. They have years of experience that they could share with younger gay men if they would only be willing to listen. The main problem is that younger men do not know if older men are just offering good advice or if the reason they are being so friendly is because they want to get into their pants.

An older gay male of forty, who we shall call "Martin", felt that most relationships he has had with younger gay males turn into daddy/son relationships. "Natural consequences may bring the relationship into a daddy role, it's happened to me and had to let go... But I don't make a conscious effort to avoid young people."

Healthy Choice

The healthiest outlook I found, came from "Phil", 33, who said, "At 23, I was reluctant to speak to anyone at the bar. I stayed away from older people. I was concerned that older people might want to pick me up on me. So now that am older, I go [to bars] more for the atmosphere and companionship."

On the issue of being approached by someone who has no interest in Phil stated that, "I would still react negatively now. I would be more outspoken about it, whereas when I was younger, I would have ignored the person or walked away because when I was younger I was more nervous."

Simple Suggestions

Perhaps the best solution would be the following: younger lesbians, find similar interests as those of older lesbians; older lesbians, learn more about the tastes of younger lesbians.

Younger gay males, try to be more sympathetic and inviting towards older gay men since, like it or not, you too will get old.

Older gay men, do not let younger gay men use you for money or clothes, you deserve better. No one can capture back their youth by sleeping around with temporary beauty. Be yourself but do not act like a salivating fool every time a young man comes through the bar doors.

But no matter what you do, remember what the little prince once said, "the essential is invisible to the eye."

Kassi Ydris is a gay man living in Copenhagen, Denmark, who writes prose and poetry for The Paper.
What Happened?

Fashion Dos and Don'ts

by Marsha Olson  
Fashion Editor

Well 1997 has arrived and we all have a few of our own New Year’s resolutions. This year, did you finally decide to get creative with your wardrobe and find yourself...who you really are?

Here’s my personal view on styles you should wear and others you shouldn’t—well—you wouldn’t be caught dead wearing to your own funeral!

The Many Don’ts

So you find yourself wandering around your house, you open your drawers, your closet and just can’t seem to find a thing to wear. You realize you need to pick up a few things at the grocery store (A number I don’t!).

Please don’t throw on those tired parachute metallic jogging/leisure suits. Practically every couple of 65 year olds in Carmel are wearing them! Unless you plan to skydiving this year, put it on and make and appointment for your next jump off the plane.

Wearing those jogging suits in public will make anyone look as if he/she were entering a Hillshire Farms polka kielbasa sausage encasing contest or even worse...if they’re purple—forget it! Someone may just accidentally mistake you for being a large McDonaldland character named Grmace, notorious for his fatty shanks! Not! No! NO!

If you are planning any those quick trips to the market this year, simplify your wardrobe, but tastefully. Always look in the mirror before you leave the house. You don’t want to look like your auditioning for a Chic jeans or cheesy Gitano jeans ad either.

Denim No-Nos

If your wardrobe includes plenty of jeans, wearing them too tight will only get you a bit, behind-the-scenes role in an old Sergio Valente jeans commercial. Any tighter and you’ll make your way to Folk St. in good ol’ San Francisco. Uh, say Honey, what are your rates tonight? OOPS!

And at #2, remember girls, pumps and jeans don’t mix and will only scream “Hooker, Hooker, Where are you”?

Fashion accident #3 are those hideous yet claimed to be comfortable Ugg Boots. I’m sorry, I don’t care how comfortable everyone says they are. Those things look like detached feet from a reject Disneyland Winnie the Pooh costume. Or like you just landed a spot on “Thundarr, the Barbarian”.

Make your New Year’s resolution to never wear those or have them in your possession. Take a trip to you neighborhood dumpster.

Daffy

At #4, for those who don’t have picture-perfect Palmolive feet, don’t wear thongs/floppy foam shower slippers in public. Keep them where they belong—down the drain. The are definitely not considered footwear not is it fashionable. The only place thongs have become useful are as miniature fly swatters/trash consumer products.

So you want to get adopted by a munchkin tribe family of elves in the middle of the forest. NOT! Well, that’s what will happen if you continue to wear leggings, spandex or anything that will stretch and slingshot you straight to Mars. If it acts as a dual purpose bungee cord, you’re in major trouble so call 911.

These unfortunate creations, topped off with oversized sweaters, have been popularized by bored, frumpy housewives with screaming babies and psychotic Jane Fonda followers.

The Checkered Flag

Here’s a few tips on looks to look for. This season you’ll notice an abundance of colorful ski sweater craziness in stores and on the runways.

The racy look became popular when it was first introduced by clubgoers. Most are designed with block colors and bold stripes. All the attention will be on your upper body which is a plus if you’re built.

Remember you want to be noticed as a whole. Keep this look continuous by wearing clothing in the same realm. Sport jackets that match, for example, racing stripe windbreakers, sport pants, and athletic shoes.

Jeans with hikking boots will kill the look so be careful. Most department stores carry these hip styles. Designers like Dolce & Gabanana and Gaultier are also creating clothes with a racecar sport champion energy.

Shower to Shower

Vinyl has also made a major comeback. Shops on Haight St. in San Francisco are pouring out wild, funky styles for men and women. You’ll find jackets, pants, bags, hats, skirts, etc.

Vinyl is a slick, water-repellent material. Personally recommend wearing it during the day for a modern “Mod Squad” look and as cool club wear. If you plan to go skiing this season, don’t wear it. You’ll freeze!

Don’t Cry for Me, Fashion Diva

Also keep an eye out for 40’s styling. With the new film Evita expect to see a lot of fake fur, and streamlined suits. I recommend investing in a high quality, well tailored suit. You may need it for that special occasion.

Pinstripes are a plus on my list. This is a classy, rich look that definitely turns heads and never goes out of style. A lot of today’s top designers have replicated vintage styles, so it seems that dressing funky is now more acceptable in this conservative world of ours.

If you decided that this is your year to change, go out and find a look that you think you’ll feel confident and comfortable in. There are combinations, styles and possibilities out there for you!

Don’t hold yourself back and decline to wear or dress in clothes that you really, really want to wear. Dress for yourself. Also don’t let others keep you locked up in an old look. Just be yourself. We’re individuals which makes us unique.

This leads to the magic word: STYLE!

Deadlines for the March/April issue:

Story ideas: February 15th
Story copy & Ad placement: February 28th
Ad art deadline: March 10th

We’re particularly interested in information on gay-friendly Bed & Breakfasts.

Should Gays and Lesbians Be Allowed to Legally Marry?

Whether you’re the marrying kind or not, say “I do” to legal equality!

The Landmark decision is about to be decided in Hawaii.

Please call 1-900-07-MARRY. You must be 18 years or older. Each call makes a much needed $100 contribution that will automatically be added to your telephone bill.

You may elect to contribute more. A minimum of $25 is allowed per call. Please feel free to call as many times as you like. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated.

Endorsed by: ASTREA, PFLAG, HRC, MGLCC, HGLTQ, GAYSM.
Friends of Hawaii Equal Rights Manage P.O. Box 11560 Honolulu, Hawaii 96820
Top Things to Love About Salinas

10. Lack of any nightlife makes it easier to concentrate on work
9. Enormous shopping malls attract lightening away from your house
8. All the lesbian potluck recipes you could ever want
7. Toxic pesticide residue adds sparkle to your car’s finish
6. Stylish mayor never returns your phone calls, so you don’t waste time asking for his opinion on gay issues
5. Like visiting Modesto, Fresno, and Bakersfield all at once
4. It’s easy to spell
3. Streets full of semis = single truckers!
2. Gang member dress codes coordinate with cheery holiday decorations for the next two months.
1. All the closet space you’ll ever need

Coming Next Soon to The Paper

Post Out
Who was Terry Dolan?
By David Bianco
Contributing Writer

Who was Terry Dolan? Ten years ago this week, Terry Dolan, a key conservative activist of the 1980s, died of AIDS. Even as a child, Dolan was active in Republican politics, volunteering for Richard Nixon’s 1960 presidential campaign. When he was 25, he helped organize the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC), and he soon became that organization’s director.

Heeding the Call
Dolan was an extremely talented fundraiser, and many credit him and his organization with the stunning triumph of the New Right in 1980. Dolan worked hard for the nomination and election of Ronald Reagan as President, although his influence was equally significant in the defeat of liberal Senators such as George McGovern, Frank Church and Birch Bayh. The conservatives who replaced them (including Dan Quayle) gave the Republicans a majority in the Senate for the first time in a generation.

Dolan was also gay. He was a regular in the gay cocktail-party circuit of Washington, DC, and often vacationed at gay resorts such as Northern California’s Russian River. But Dolan’s relationship to the gay-rights movement was complex. Philosophically, Dolan was opposed to gay-rights laws, insisting that the government shouldn’t interfere in people’s hiring practices. He balanced that view with a strong defense of privacy—which makes sense, because a decade before “outing,” he relied on the gay community’s discretion to keep him from being discredited among his conservative peers.

Double Life, Double Talk
In 1982, he granted an interview to The Advocate in which he repeated his support for privacy and criticized “some of the rhetoric that some of my friends in the right have used on gay activism.” But Dolan (who later denied those comments) was not above using anti-gay rhetoric himself. NCPAC sent out a fund-raising letter that declared “the nation’s moral fiber is being weakened by the growing homosexual movement and the fanatic ERA pushers (many of whom publicly brag that they are lesbians).” Some say Dolan approved the letter, although he apologized for it to the New York Times, calling it “totally inappropriate.”

Strange Bedfellows
In the early 1980s, Dolan joined with former Republican Congressman Robert Bauman, famed discharged gay Vietnam veteran Leonard Matlovich and several other gay conservatives to found the Concerned Americans for Individual Rights (CAIR).

Unlike the gay Republican group the Log Cabin Club, CAIR found little success. Few members were willing to take leadership roles if it meant publicity, and while many gay conservatives offered words of encouragement and even cash donations, few would write checks or even allow their names to be associated with the group. At one point, the group proposed to send out a fund-raising letter to find conservatives who would support gay rights, and several of the organizers are said to have requested the names and addresses of any anti-gay responses so they could target those individuals with homophobic fund-raising appeals. By the time of Dolan’s death, CAIR had largely faded away.

The Bitter End
When Dolan began to get sick with AIDS, he insisted publicly that he suffered from anemia and diabetes. When he died, his family held a memorial service that excluded Dolan’s gay friends. Instead, conservative mourners such as Pat Buchanan and Utah Senator Orrin Hatch came to pay their respects to a key architect of the conservative revolution in American government. A separate service was held by Bauman and others who wanted to remember Dolan for all that he was.

The Washington Post accurately reported the cause of death, and later ran a long article about Dolan’s homosexuality. The conservative activist’s family and straight friends were furious. His brother Tony Dolan (a noted Reagan speechwriter) even took out a two-page ad in the Washington Times insisting that Terry Dolan was not gay.

An American Tragedy?
What can we make of a person whose personal and political lives seem so contradictory? Many would settle for a simple answer—Dolan was a self-hating homosexual who never became comfortable with his sexual orientation and expressed his discomfort by trying to hurt all gays and lesbians. But the truth is probably more complicated than that.

There is no inherent “gay position” on issues such as military spending or taxes — and an individual, regardless of his or her sexual orientation, who feels that conservatives are right on such issues may find themselves having to face the same challenges Dolan did. But then, they find themselves in bed (politically, at least) with a Ronald Reagan or a Jesse Helms, and the conflicts between advancing causes they believe in and maintaining dignity as a gay person become almost insoluble.

Given the slow response to the epidemic from the administration he helped put in place, Terry Dolan’s death from AIDS made for a final irony in a life full of paradox.

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. The author of Modern Jewish History for Everyone, he can be reached care of this publication or through his E-mail address: ArbiBianco@aol.com.
Being Alive Medical Update  

November 25, 1996

Mark Katz, MD and Jim Stecker

Reduced Viral Load & Improved Clinical Outcome

A study published in a recent Journal of Infectious Diseases (October 1996) provides additional evidence that viral load can predict clinical outcome. Researchers looked back at plasma samples provided by participants in ACTG 1168/117. This study was conducted about five years ago and involved about 900 PWAs with advanced infection. The researchers found that a 50% reduction in viral load during the course of the study yielded a 27% reduction in disease progression (defined as a new opportunistic infection or death).

Protease Inhibitors & Increasing Viral Load

Many people with HIV have had remarkable results from triple combination therapy that includes a protease inhibitor. Some, however, who initially did well on the combination are now showing increasing levels of virus in the blood. It is estimated that anywhere from 5% to 25% of people on protease/reverse transcriptase inhibitor combinations are showing increasing viral loads after about six months on the therapy. 

Switching to another protease inhibitor may not be the answer. If you are resistant to indinavir (Crixivan), you are probably resistant to ritonavir (Norvir), and possibly to saquinavir (Invirase) and nelfinavir (Viread) as well. You might consider replacing the protease inhibitor with one of the new non-boosting RT inhibitors (nevirapine or delavirdine).

It may be that you are not resistant to the protease inhibitor, but rather to one of the RT inhibitors being used. Thus, another strategy is to change that part of the combination, e.g. from AZT to d4T or ddI.

You might also consider a ritonavir/saquinavir combination. Such a combination is currently unapproved; ADAP, for example, will not pay for more than one protease inhibitor. The September issue of the Johns Hopkins HIV Report included recommendations for dosing a ritonavir/saquinavir combination. If you have never been on a protease inhibitor, you start with 300 mg of ritonavir twice a day. At day 7, you add 400 mg of saquinavir twice a day; at day 14, you double the twice-daily dosages of ritonavir to 600 mg. If you are already on saquinavir, decrease the dosage to 400 mg twice a day, start the ritonavir at 300 mg twice a day and double that at day 14. If on ritonavir, add 400 mg of saquinavir twice a day.

These are some possible options for those who find their viral load increasing after some months on a protease inhibitor. This situation tells us that patient compliance is not the only factor in the development of resistance. Even people who have strictly complied with the regimen are seeing increasing viral loads on the combination. And the most important (and unanswered) question of all: are protease inhibitors turning out to have a defined interval of usefulness?

Controlled Trial of IL-2

Interleukin-2 (IL-2) is a chemical found in the body; its basic function is to stimulate the growth of T-cells. Research into its use has been proceeding in fits and starts for some years. First off, this is a very expensive drug to produce and this invariably slows research. Second, side effects from its use can be the severe.

A recent report in the New England Journal of Medicine (October 31, 1996) outlined the results of the first controlled trial of IL-2. All previous studies provided the drug to all participants and did not include a control group. In this latest study, about seventy people with T-cells greater than 200 were assigned to a regimen of five days of infusions every two months for one year. Participants received either a placebo or IL-2. All were on antivirals.

Baseline CD4 count for the two groups averaged slightly more than 400. At the end of the year’s study, average CD4 count for the control group was 349, while the IL-2 group had an average CD4 count of 916. There was no significant difference in viral load between the two groups. IL-2 did not, as earlier feared, increase viral load.

New Prophylaxis for MAC

Anyone with a CD4 count of less than 75 should consider prophylaxis for MAC. A serious late stage opportunistic infection. There is a new choice and it may be the best available. The drug is azithromycin, an antibiotic, and it needs to be taken only once a week (two 600 mg tablets). This dosing schedule makes azithromycin not only the easiest MAC prophylaxis to take, but also the least expensive.

NTZ Expanded Access

We have reported in the past on the use of Nitisoxanide (NTZ) as treatment for cryptosporidiosis, an opportunistic infection that causes severe diarrhea. The drug’s manufacturer, Unimed Pharmaceuticals, has set up an FDA-authorized expanded access program. For information, you can call 800-856-6339, ext. 4192.

Reprint by permission. Being Alive is a non-profit AIDS service organization. To subscribe to their monthly newsletter, call them at (213) 667-3262.

Protease Inhibitors & HIV Education

by Andy Handler, MA., Senior Health Educator, HIV/AIDS Programs, Monterey County Health Department

At a recent retreat of the Monterey County HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee there was a long conversation regarding protease inhibitors.

We’re all very excited about the possibilities of this new class of drugs. For now they seem to be able to lower the amounts of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) in an infected person’s blood and there is strong reason to believe this will help lower the possibility of opportunistic infection. However, we realize that there are some very serious issues to keep in mind.

Perhaps the most important is that nothing has changed regarding HIV education. The exchange of blood, semen or vaginal secretions during unprotected sexual activity and needle sharing activities still causes HIV infection. Breast milk from an infected mother to her child can still cause infection. If a person becomes infected today there is no reason to assume that all will be fine in the future. Protease inhibitors have been used for less than two years and we still need to see how they work in the long run.

Tight Schedules

The treatment regimen is very strict, and rigorous. People are taking these, sometimes, stomach churning drug combinations three times a day every eight hours like clockwork. The goal of compliance to the drug regimen is a level of HIV in the blood which is so low as to be undetectable, but undetectable does not mean un-infectious. That is if the drug combinations work for you, not everyone is benefited by them. We still need to learn more about how they work, and for whom.

What we do know is that HIV mutates quickly. If a person doesn’t take their medications as directed they can develop what is known as a “drug-tolerant” strain of the virus. Since our medicine chest of protease inhibitors is small at this time, if one becomes tolerant to one inhibitor, they’re likely to be “drug-tolerant” to all of them.

Business as Usual

Safe sexual and drug using behaviors are as important now as ever. If you were to have unprotected sex and become infected by a person taking protease inhibitors there is the possibility of being infected with a strain of virus that, without the constant bombardment of medication, could develop to be “drug-tolerant” when you decided to seek treatment.

If you’re already infected, exposure to someone else’s “drug-tolerant” strain puts you at further risk. We need to keep in mind that it is the HIV level in the blood, in best case scenario, which becomes undetectable. This doesn’t mean that HIV is absent from the body: it can be found in the lymphatic system, the brain, and in other organs. It’s just present at very low levels in the blood. Those who are infected can still infect others.

Not “The Cure” But A Good Start

The discovery and use of protease inhibitors is exciting and gives us all great hope. It’s not as if these medical advances change people’s attitudes regarding the educational issues around the transmission of HIV infection.

If you’re interested in attending an HIV Advisory Committee meeting, or an Education and Prevention Network meeting please call Andy Handler at the Monterey County Health Department at 647-7932.

3TC Blocks Hep B in HIV + Men

by David Fair
From the We The People Fastfax

Lamivudine treatment of male patients coinfected with the HIV and hepatitis B viruses resulted in undetectable levels of hepatitis B viral replication in nearly 90% of patients with high hepatitis B virus (HBV) replication at baseline. Results of a year of follow-up in an open-label study that is ongoing in France appeared in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

One-year results are available on 40 men with progressive HIV disease who were also infected with hepatitis B. All of the patients were refractory to or unable to tolerate any antiviral treatment other than lamivudine. Dr. Yves Benhamou of the Groupe Hospitalier Pitie-Salpetriere in Paris and colleagues administered lamivudine at a dosage of 600 mg/day or 600 mg/day followed by 300 mg/day. Thirty of the 40 patients in this series had high levels of HBV replication at baseline.

At the 1-year mark, Dr. Benhamou reports that, in those with high baseline replication, HBV DNA serum concentrations had dropped below 5 pg/mL in 96.3%. HBV DNA could still be detected in the serum in 11.5% of the study subjects.
**6th Feast a Hit**

The 6th Annual Feast for AIDS

December 15th drew hundreds of supporters to the Doubletree Hotel in Monterey for a 7-course meal prepared by Monterey's hottest chefs. The event netted $32,711 for the Monterey County AIDS Project, the largest local AIDS service organization. Chefs from Monterey, Salinas' and other fine restaurants donated their course plus the cost of their helpers. SouthCorp Wine Group donated the wines for the event.

Guests participated in a silent auction for autographed chef's coats, which brought in $3,000 for only a 32 cent investment, according to festival chair David Beckwith of Il Fornaio. Pictured are guests at the glitzy event.

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**Men Seeking Men**

**Gay Asian Male**

GAM, 28, 6', 170 lbs. Likes the outdoors, reading and gardening...and a good laugh. Your pic gets mine. Send response to Box 2574, Monterey, CA 93942-2574.

**Handsome Professional**

Athletic, artistic, and successful, single Multi-Nationality/Gay Male wants to make contact for possible LTR. I'm 6'1", 180 lbs, well-built, 39 yrs. You - similar specs. Not looking for Mr. Perfect, just Mr. Right. Race immaterial. Like you, I want a LTR. Just take a chance and see what happens...if it doesn't work out - we'll just move on. (respond to #030010)

**Monterey Cub Seeks Love**

WM, 44, 5', 180lb hairy teddy bear wants a man for loving, long-term, monogamous relationship with other bear from late 30's to 50's. Enjoy staying home to play house but willing to expand outside interests. No fancy food - I'm a meat and potatoes man. I like C/W to rock music, movies & football. Sexy but easy to warm up. Not into bars. No drugs. OK. I'm HIV+, you should be too. Sexual appetite ranges from lots of cuddling and kissing to a little kinky with the right man. Endowment not important to either of us. Not looking for a sister. Please send letter and photo to Gary, P.O. Box 2342, Monterey, CA 93942.

**You Don't Have to Be a Rice Queen!**

But we can still have great times together. Asian male, attractive, slim, shy, caring w/positive attitude towards life seeks WM, straight a/s, fun to be with, mature. Walks along the beach, coffee, travel and much more. Check me out. (respond to #030030)

**First Time Ad**

HM, 33, 6' 180lbs. Attractive, athletic, professional, honest, clean-cut and not into bar scene, seeks H/WM, straight a/s, for friendship and possible relationship. Please no chemical dependants. Send photo and phone number to Box Holder, P.O. Box 211, Monterey, CA 93942.

**New Face in Town**

Bi-curious, successful male new to Monterey, not into bars, VGL shy, Leo discreet. 6', mid 30's, French/Italian, 170lbs, brown/black, HIV-, Seeking LTR only. Great sense of humor seeks similar, serious only. Hobbies: video production, photography. Send letter, photo will respond the same. (respond to #030010)

**Well-Oiled Gladiators Apply**

WM, 41, amateur BB wants to make contact with pro or other amateur BBs who enjoy riding up, admiring, massaging and maybe some more safe fun. I'm handsome, 6'1", 195#, sandy-blond, full head of hair, smooth tan face and body and run at peak testosterone levels. It's my best muscle and never fatigues. Ever Greek, wrestled the real way? Any race. (#030103)

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**Women Seeking Men**

**This is Easy...**

Let's get together for dinner. It's as simple as that. Drop me a line and let's see what we can work out. (respond to #030010)

**I'm Just a Gal Who Can't Say No**

Well, depending, of course. Discreet, clean, sober, healthy, compassionate, lusty, worldly-wise, Intelligent, high libido & playful. Offering skilled massage services or erotic recreational indoor sport for any lovely, horny gal who is old enough to know the difference between love and lust; young enough to still be spontaneous. Let's take each other off the planet! (respond to #030010)

**Harley-only Dyke**

Wants more of same to ride, wrench, camp with. Also seeking cheap living situation; have own RV or? (respond to #030010)

**Transvestites**

**Sassy, Sexy, Submissive TV**

Looking for the right master (or mistress), into bondage, serious spanking, obedience. With the spirit of a real woman, sensual, cultured, witty, best of both worlds. Brown hair, blue eyes, bisexial, late thirties, 5'7", 135 lbs, 20" waist. Into corsets, six inch heels, nipple rings, beautiful make up and everything that makes a woman more attractive and feminine. Very healthy, open, cultured and spiritual. Previous S&M experience a plus. Can also be the best Dom if required. Carmel-Monterey area preferred, will travel. Serious inquiries only. (respond to #030030)

All submissions are strictly confidential and are run for three consecutive issues of The Paper as space allows. Plus they're free.

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**Responding to a Personal Ad**

1. Write the number of the ad you want to respond to (e.g. #030030) on a blank and mail stamped envelope and enclose your response. This is the envelope we will forward.

2. Put the sealed envelope with your response in another stamped envelope and mail it to The Paper.

3. Wait for a response and make a date. We suggest meeting at a public place like a coffee shop or restaurant first.
Deadline for submissions for the Resource Guide is March/April issue is March 7th. Questions, 655-3756.

The Paper Subscriptions
1 year (six issues) for $12

Send your community resource information to The Paper by March 5th.

Listings are free for local non-profit organizations.

The Paper
787 Laine St. #5, Monterey, CA 93940

Deadline is February 5th